



*Armed Forces  
Institute of Pathology  
Building*

**Army Medical Center  
Washington, D.C.**

*see overleaf*

# The Armed Forces Institute of Pathology

One of the first institutions in the Washington, D. C., area designed to resist an A-bomb attack is the new 8-story building for the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. Now under construction at the Army Medical Center, of which Walter Reed Hospital is a part, the building will house all of the activities ordinarily found individually in office buildings, research laboratories, hospitals, printing establishments, educational centers, and other public institutions. Steel-reinforced concrete blast-resistant walls enclose the main portion of the structure.

Closed-circuit color television for teaching purposes, X-ray suites, and animal-holding and animal-operating rooms are features of the design. Except for two small 4-story wings at the north and south ends of the building, the entire structure will be windowless. It will also be completely air-conditioned. Blast-proof doors will separate the wings, which are designed for expendability in the event of a major attack, from the bomb-resistant section.

To offset the physiological and psychological characteristics caused by the lack of windows, high intensity lighting will be installed throughout. Colors—light, fresh pastels and bright shades—will vary from floor to floor, from corridor to corridor, and from room to room.

Close coordination between Walter Reed Hospital and the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology will be facilitated by television communication, a modern system of pneumatic tubes to expedite handling of surgical specimens, and a tunnel connecting the two buildings and entering the Institute in close proximity to the autopsy area.

In surgical cases where rapid determination of a pathological finding is necessary, the television setup provides a direct and immediate link of communication—from the operating room to the laboratory. The surgeon will be able to see the slides as they are processed by the pathologist. At the same time, this medium of communication will make possible an interchange of discussion between both specialists without the necessity for either one leaving his working area. And at the same time, staff members and students can tune in on the demonstration.

Facilities are planned for a number of new activities: laboratories for investigative work in such fields as histochemistry, cytophysics, historadiobiology, histobacteriology—virus and tissue culture. Improved facilities for present activities include a small auditorium for staff conferences, classrooms, a seminar-type teaching laboratory, and conference rooms for department chiefs. Space will be provided for the anatomic pathology section of Walter Reed Hospital. The laboratories are placed back-to-back in the center of the building but are divided by a central service pipe core and surrounded by corridors. Offices and other nonlaboratory areas will be located adjacent to outer walls.

Occupancy is slated for the fall of 1954. The present home of the Institute is at Seventh Street and Independence Avenue SW., in Washington. The removal to the new building will leave the Armed Forces Medical Library in sole possession of the library-museum building presently occupied by the Institute.

*Drawing—courtesy of Faulkner, Kingsburg & Stenhouse, Architect-Engineers, Washington, D. C.*

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UNITED STATES  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

DIVISION OF PUBLIC DOCUMENTS  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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